

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION MINUTES
January 14, 2013

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session in the Lower Level Conference Room of City Hall on January 14, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

Commission President Corrigan called the meeting to order and presided.

PRESENT: Commissioners Corrigan, No, Troyer, Kirkpatrick, and Shafer.

ALSO PRESENT: Commission Attorney Brooks, Chief Dombkowski, Deputy Chief Leroux and Lt. John Watson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commission President Corrigan called the January 14th meeting to order. Commission President Corrigan called for the approval of the minutes from the November Merit Commission Meeting. Commissioner Kirkpatrick moved that the minutes be approved and Commissioner Shafer seconded the motion. Commission President Corrigan moved that the minutes be approved. All in favor per voice vote. All members were present for the meeting. Commission President Corrigan announced the election of Officers for the Merit Commission. Commission President Corrigan wanted to pass out ballots for the election but was told by Commission Attorney that it has to be a public vote, so it was determined it would be a verbal vote. Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked if there were term limits and was told that there weren't. The Commission President said that they would start with the nomination of the President and then would vote orally. Commissioner Kirkpatrick nominated Don Corrigan as president, and Commissioner Troyer seconded that nomination. No other nominations were announced. The President of the Merit Commission was voted unanimously to be Don Corrigan. Commission President Corrigan asked for nominations for Vice President. Commissioner Troyer nominated Dr. No for Vice President and Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconded that nomination. Commission President Corrigan asked for discussion, and there was none, so he asked for the vote and it was unanimous for Dr. No to be Vice President. Commission President Corrigan asked for nominations for Secretary. Commissioner Troyer nominated Tom Shafer, with Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconding that nomination. Commission President Corrigan asked for discussion and there was none, so he asked for a vote and it was unanimous for Tom Shafer to be Secretary. The election of new officers was formally completed.

Commission President Corrigan asked about the Patrol Officer testing that took place on January 5th at Lambert Fieldhouse. Lt. Watson said that there were 32 people that showed up, and ended up failing 6 people on the agility test, with 26 people taking the written test and they do not have the results back as of yet. Lt. Watson expects the results back sometime this week. The next step will be the police interview panel with

hopes to have that started in early to mid February. Once the test scores are back, Lt. Watson will get that information to Diane Foster and Commission President Corrigan. Diane Foster will be contacting those applicants that failed. Deputy Chief Leroux related the amount of time spent on Article 2 in 2012, indicating that the process of hiring has changed and that they are on course to run that new Article 2 process. The next step in that process will be the Police Board interviews. Once test scores are here, and notification through HR to those that failed, and get a date set so HR can send those that passed a letter for the interview date and time so that the process can keep moving. Commissioner Shafer asked what they expect the percentage of the 26 people that took the test was that would have failed the test. Lt. Watson thought that with the new standards that his guess would be between 17 and 20 that passed. The test results used to be 70% across the board and it was moved to 75% in each category, and they also must score 85% overall.

Commission President Corrigan was inquiring about whose appointments on the Merit Commission were up and whose weren't. Commission Attorney Brooks responded by saying that two of the Commissioners terms were up a year ago, and that the City Council would need to appoint Commissioner Kirkpatrick and that the Mayor would have to appoint Commissioner Troyer. Deputy Chief Leroux had an updated listing of the appointments which indicates that Commissioner Kirkpatrick was reappointed 2-9-12, and Commissioner Troyer was reappointed 2-9-12. It was decided that Commissioners Troyer, Kirkpatrick and Shafer's terms would expire in 2016 and Commission President and Commission Vice President's terms would expire in 2014.

Commission President Corrigan asked about the Patrol Officer eligibility list. Commission Attorney Brooks said that there was no one on the eligibility list at the present time. The new list will be active for two years. Commission President inquired about a letter being sent to the applicants that were no longer qualified and it was decided that he would speak with Diane Foster in regard to that issue. Commission President inquired about the list for Promotions. Commission Attorney Brooks response was that all three promotion levels were certified last year. It was determined that there is a need for an exam to be given for promotions and it was determined that the police department give a date for that exam be given to the Merit Commission. Chief Dombkowski said that there were two promotions within the last year. A Captain and a Lieutenant were promoted this year. There were three applicants on the list for Lieutenant and seven applicants on the Sergeant's list and three applicants on the Captain's list.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission President Corrigan had new business which was Officer of the Year. There is a committee that needs to meet and vote on Officer of the Year. Chief Dombkowski and Commission President Corrigan decided that the announcement would be made at

the February Council Meeting. Chief Dombkowski stated that there were no nominations for Officer of the Quarter.

Deputy Chief Leroux distributed discs for the 2012 Policy Revisions to each Commissioner. The current Merit Policy is also on the disc with the revisions made.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Dombkowski thanked the Commissioners for the work involved to making changes in the policies and the rules and regulations. Chief Dombkowski commented about the lack of applicants on the hiring list, mentioning that most people are staying at their jobs, which explains why we haven't lost any officers to other jobs. There was discussion of openings and the military obligation of one of our employees. There has been discussion in regard to the department's military obligation to their employees. Commission Attorney Brooks commented on the fact that in the past Lafayette Police Department was the more attractive department for hiring and now the West Lafayette Police Department is the more attractive department.

Officer Bonnell was released from the FTO Program on December 22nd, and is now out in the street doing solo patrol. Chief Dombkowski commented that Bonnell came to us from Logansport Police Department. There was a program implemented through the Board of Works and the Police Department that if you buy a home in West Lafayette, you will get a take home car. Officer Bonnell took advantage of that program and purchased a home in West Lafayette. Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked if there was any additional cost when allowing an officer to have a take home car. Chief Dombkowski responded by saying there was significant cost in regard to that. The cost of a fully outfitted police car, which there are two on our department, K-9 car and the DARE officer, those vehicles are \$45,000.00. Chief Dombkowski expressed that he enjoys seeing take home police cars in neighborhoods. Commissioner Kirkpatrick agreed.

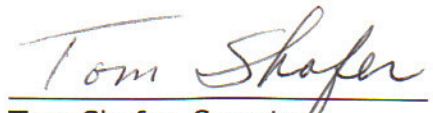
Chief Dombkowski passed out the Chief's Report to the Commissioners. Chief Dombkowski talked about the shooting on Dodge and Grant Street, which has resulted in significant drug charges, but no charges for the shooting itself. It is still an ongoing investigation and we are working with the Prosecutor's Office to determine that. Chief Dombkowski commented that it was a rare occurrence for our city. Chief Dombkowski said that the police department has been working with the landlords and encouraging them to rent to students and to do the proper background checks.

After the shooting in Connecticut the police department has been working with the schools to make sure that protocol is followed and to assure that our plans are current and up to date. During the "walk through" of the schools there were areas discovered where we all could do better. We are making sure that the school employees and the police department is working together. There is an officer at the schools but he/she

spends approximately 90% of their time at the high school campus. The West Side grade schools are locked campuses.

Commission President Corrigan asked for any other comments with no other comments. Commissioner Troyer moved that the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner No seconded it. It was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The next meeting will be held on February 11, 2013 at 7:00 pm.


Tom Shafer, Secretary

Attest:


Don Corrigan, President